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## DEVELOPMENT OF CONSUMERS' COOPERATIVES

THE "BRATRSTVI" COOPERATIVE

Engr A. Pospisil

The "Bratrstvi" (Brotherhood) cooperative had 965 sales outlets on 1 January 1949 and 1,845 on 1 November 1949. A total of 1,130 operational units have been transferred from the private to the cooperative sector within 10 months. A total of 2,350 operational units by the end of 1949 and 3,500 operational units for 1950 are being planned.

37,000 families joined "Bratrstvi," so that at During 10 months, the end of November 1949 the cooperative consisted of 800,000 individual members, that is, 66.6 percent of the total population of the region which constitutes the operational sphere of "Bratrstvi." According to the nationwide cooperative plan, "Bratrstvi" was supposed to have supplied 50 percent of the entire population in 1949. This goal was exceeded by 16.6 percent during the first 10 months of the year. By the end of 1949, 70 percent of the consumer public will be included in this mass cooperative organization. In 1950, the villages will be organized 100 percent in cooperatives, and the towns will not remain far behind.

Eighty-five percent of the income plan was fulfilled in the 10 months, that is, receipts amounted to 3,500,000, crowns, and it can be said that the planned income of 4,100,000,000 crowns will be exceeded. It is assumed that "Bratrstvi" will receive 12 percent of the entire commercial turnover of the Czech Provinces in 1950.

The labor collective, which now numbers 8,000 workers, will number 11,000 in 1950, of whom 60 percent will be women.

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## EXPANSION OF CONSUMER COOPERATIVE

The Railroad Consumer Gooperative in Pilsen, the West Bohemian Butcher Cooperative in Pilsen, the Obchodni Trznice (Markets), and the West Bohemian Cooperative Bakeries all were combined into the West Bohemian Consumer Cooperative in 1948.

Membership in the West Bohemian Consumer Cooperative rose from 66,154 in 1948 to 95,460 on 30 September 1949. It had 720 sales outlets of colonial goods and 266 special sales outlets as of 24 October 1949.

## CHANGES IN STRUCTURE OF INTERNAL TRADE

The Communist Party and the Union of Distribution Employees of the ROH (Revolutionary Trade Union Movement) so stimulated change in the structure of internal trade that, after the 1945 announcement of the nationalization laws, 24 state trade enterprises with S70 wholesale distribution units were established out of more than 10,000 wholesale firms.

The remaining wholesale system has been either liquidated or transferred to the network of state trade enterprises. In spite of the fact that the public sector formed, according to Minister Krajcir, only about one fifth of the entire trade network, it had more than half of the retail turnover and received three fourths of the goods from the distribution units. The turnover in the private sector decreased by one fourth of the entire retail turnover and now employs 110,000 persons, whereas the public sector gained a higher turnover with only 80,000 employees.

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